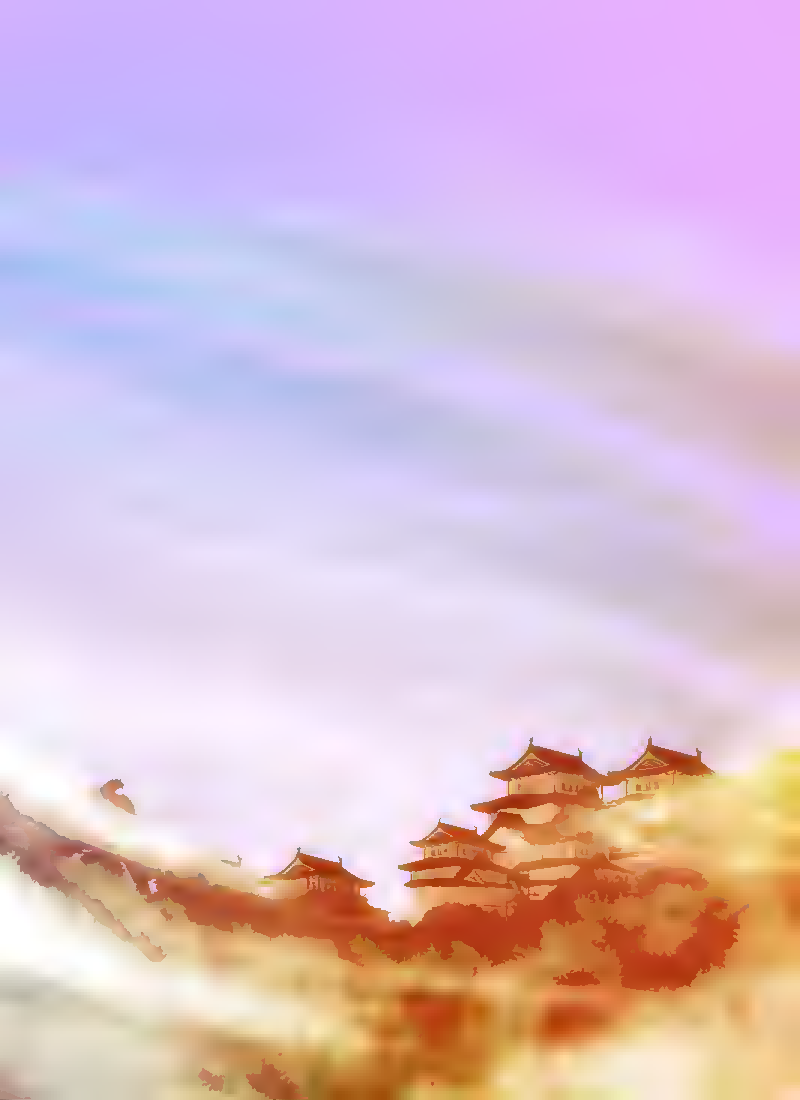
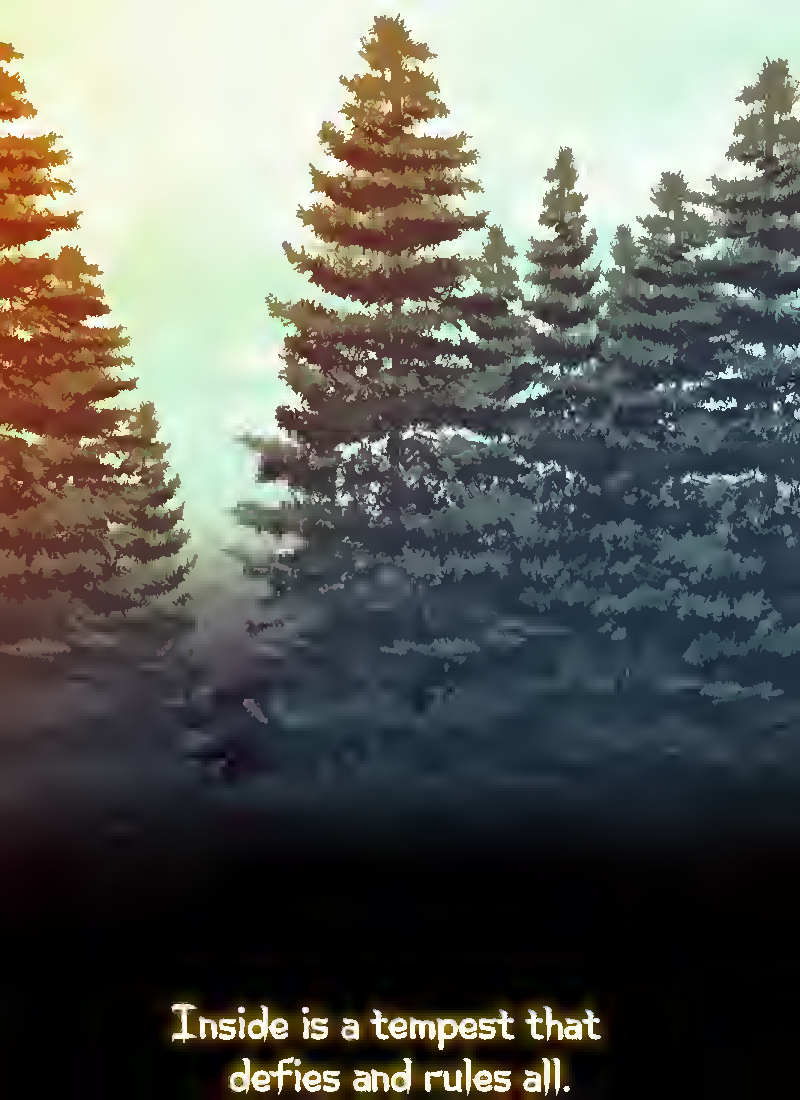
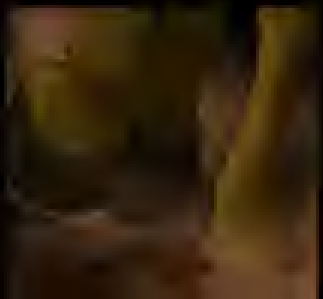
Please have your sound on for this chapter



There is a gold palace that sits
high on stone walls.

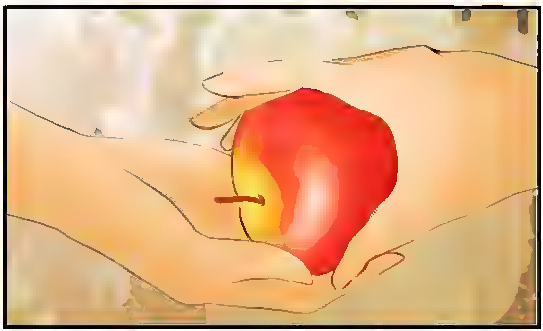

Inside is a tempest that
defies and rules all.

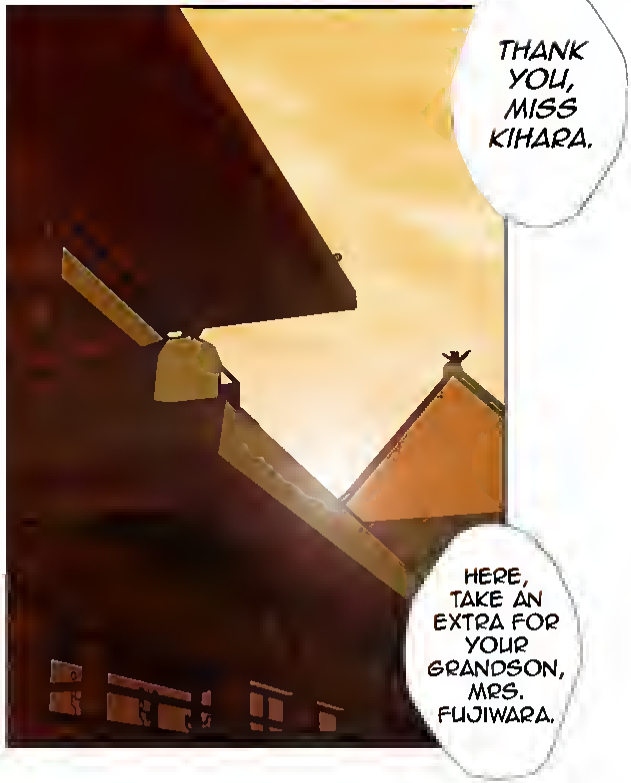


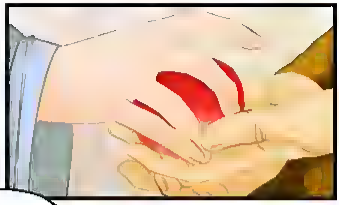
With his sword and his army
he will conquer everything.

Be afraid, obey...

...and bow to the Blood King.

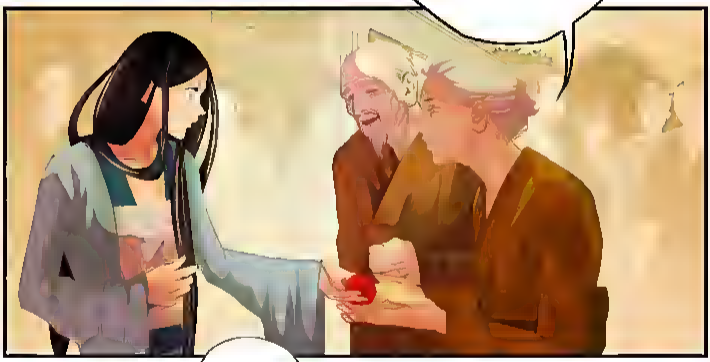



THANK YOU, MISS KIHARA.
HERE, TAKE AN EXTRA FOR YOUR GRANDSON, MRS. FUJIWARA.



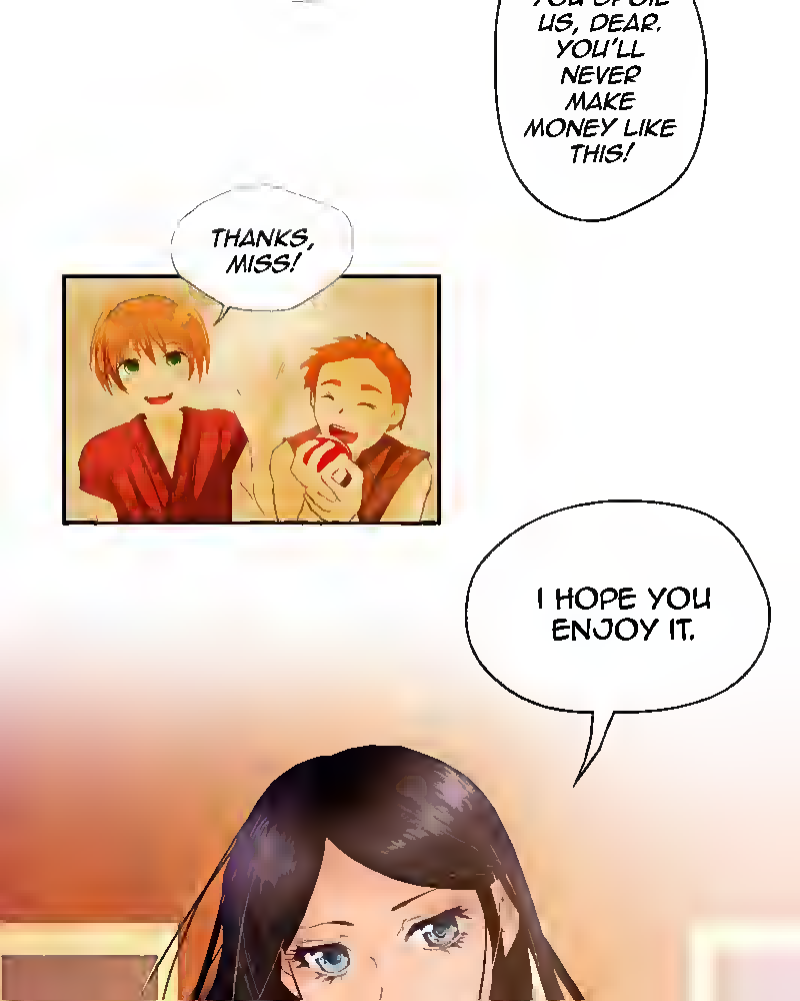
YOU'RE SO THOUGHTFUL, DEAR.

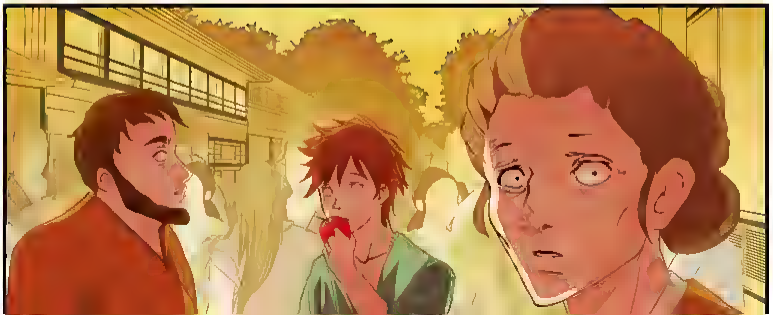
I CAN PAY YOU BACK NEXT WEEK.

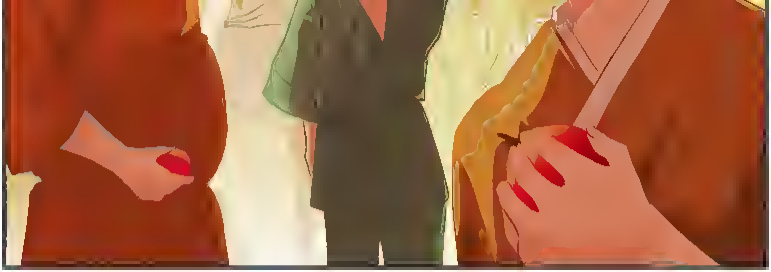


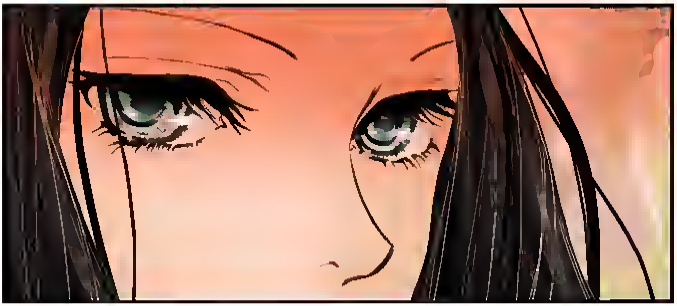
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT, MRS. FUJIWARA.

YOU SPOIL

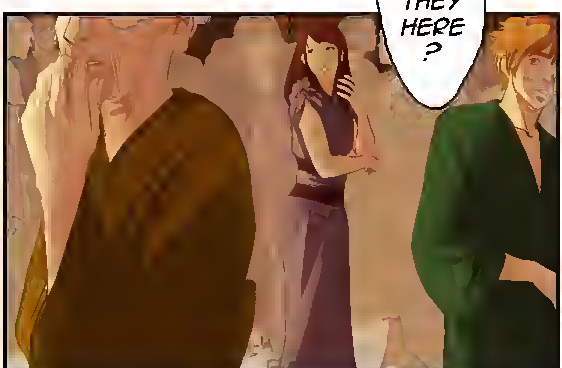

US, DEAR. YOU'LL NEVER MAKE MONEY LIKE THIS!
THANKS, MISS!
I HOPE YOU ENJOY IT.

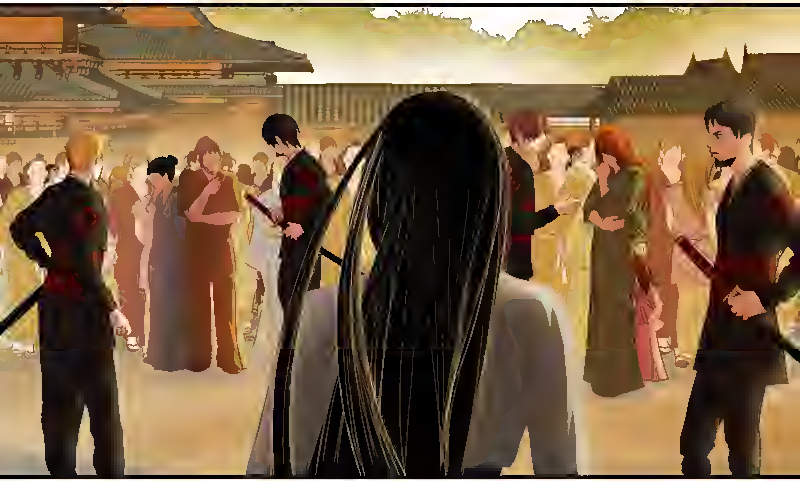


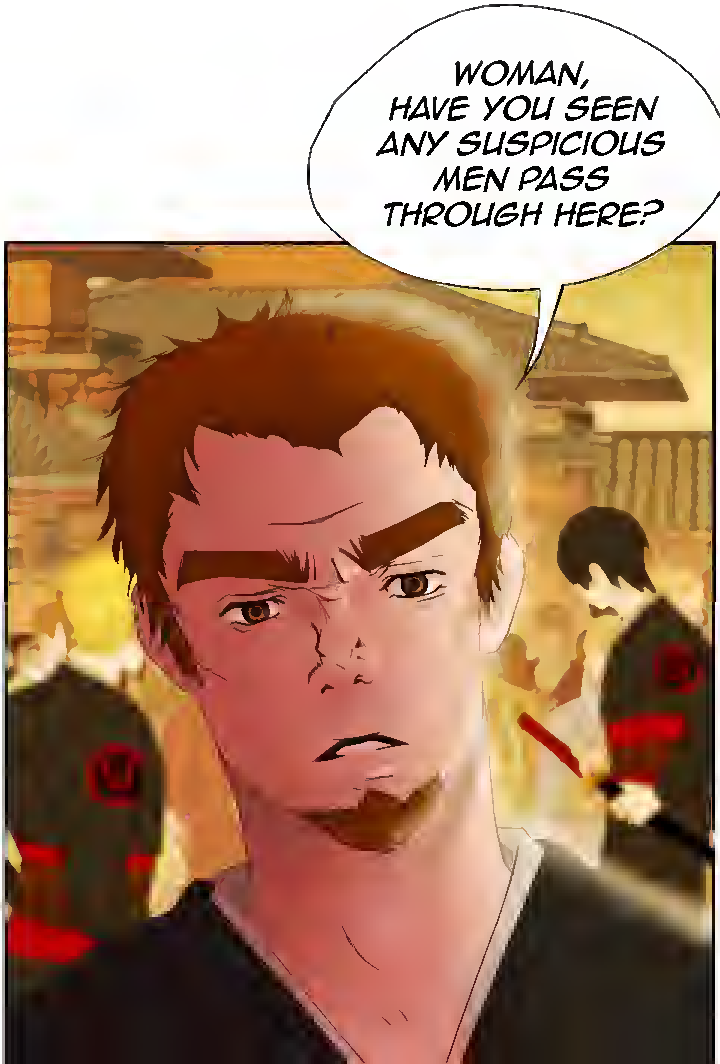




OH, DEAR ...





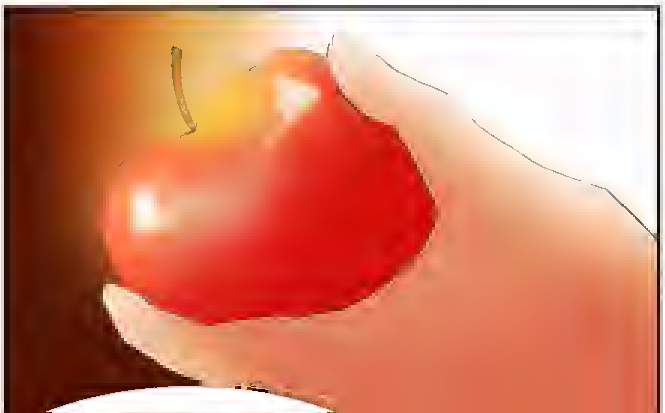

WOMAN, HAVE YOU SEEN ANY SUSPICIOUS MEN PASS THROUGH HERE?

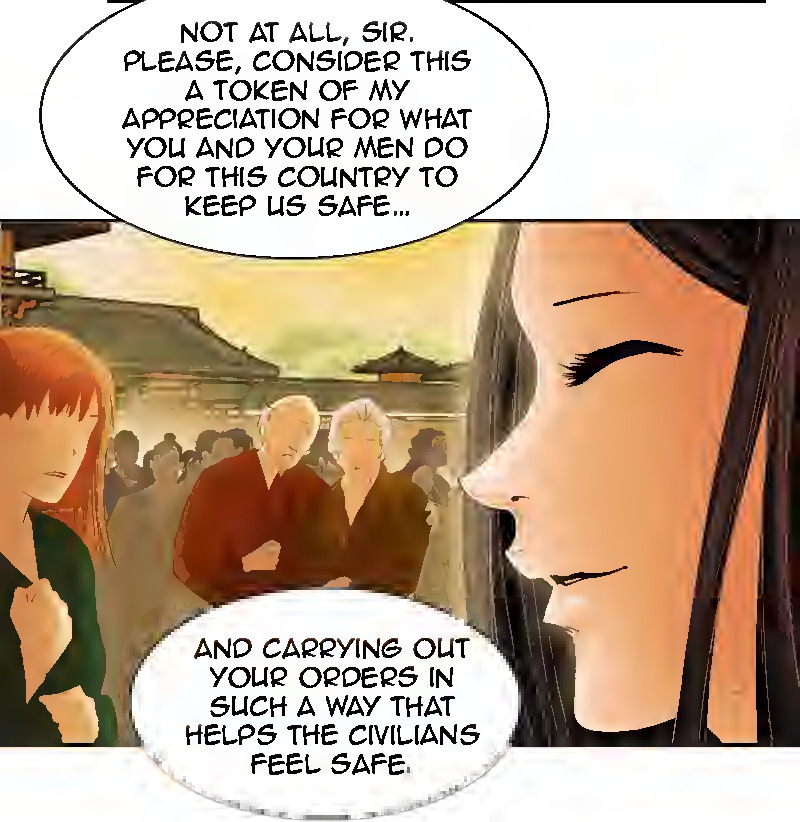
NO, IT HAS BEEN CALM UNTIL YOU ARRIVED.
AND I DOUBT YOU WILL HEAR OTHERWISE FROM THE TOWNS -PEOPLE.

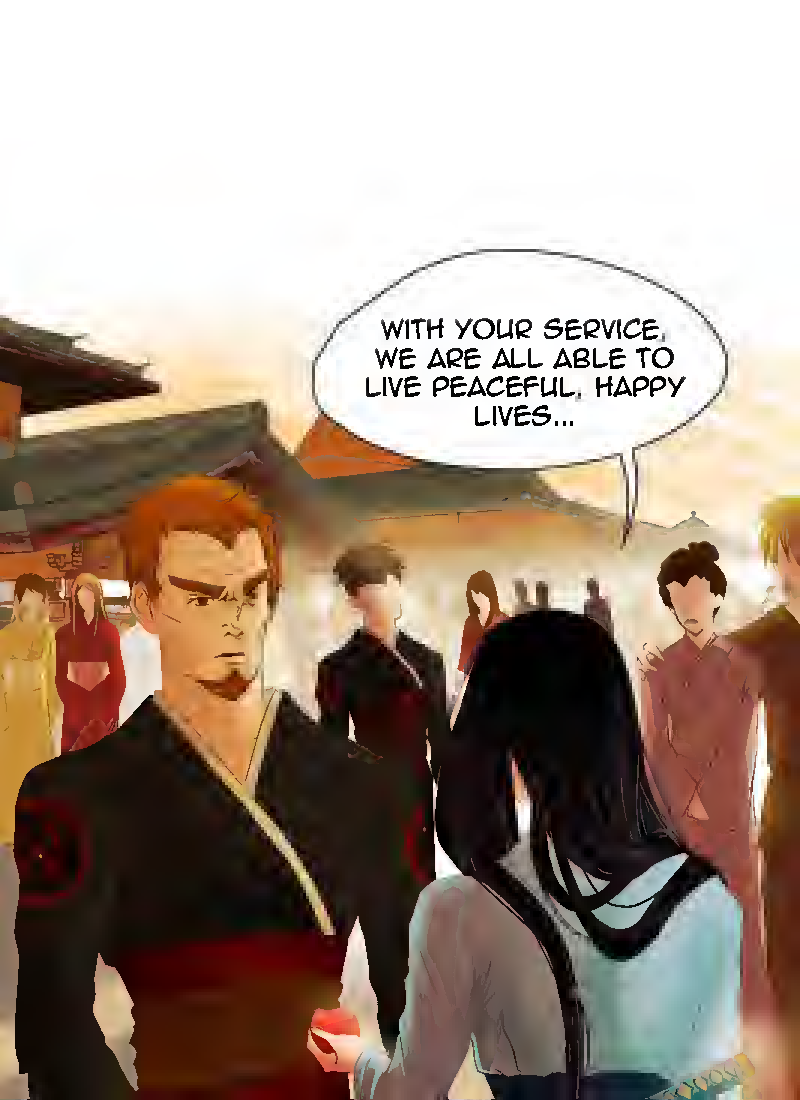
I UNDERSTAND YOU NEED TO CARRY OUT YOUR ORDERS HERE...
AND I THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE TO US ALL.

PLEASE, TAKE A LITTLE SOMETHING WITH YOU FOR YOUR TROUBLE.

ARE YOU TRYING TO BRIBE ME? DO YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO HIDE, MERCHANT?



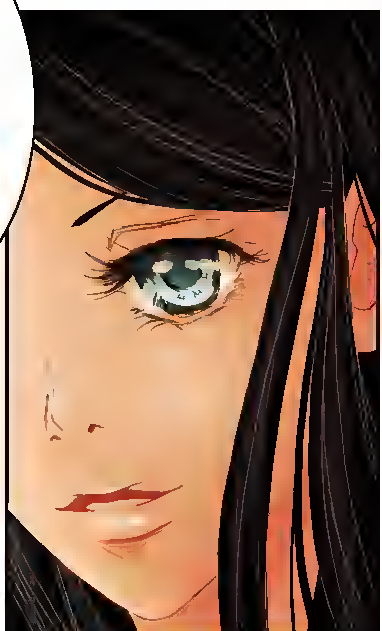

NOT AT ALL, SIR. PLEASE, CONSIDER THIS A TOKEN OF MY APPRECIATION FOR WHAT YOU AND YOUR MEN DO FOR THIS COUNTRY TO KEEP US SAFE...
AND CARRYING OUT YOUR ORDERS IN SUCH A WAY THAT HELPS THE CIVILIANS FEEL SAFE.

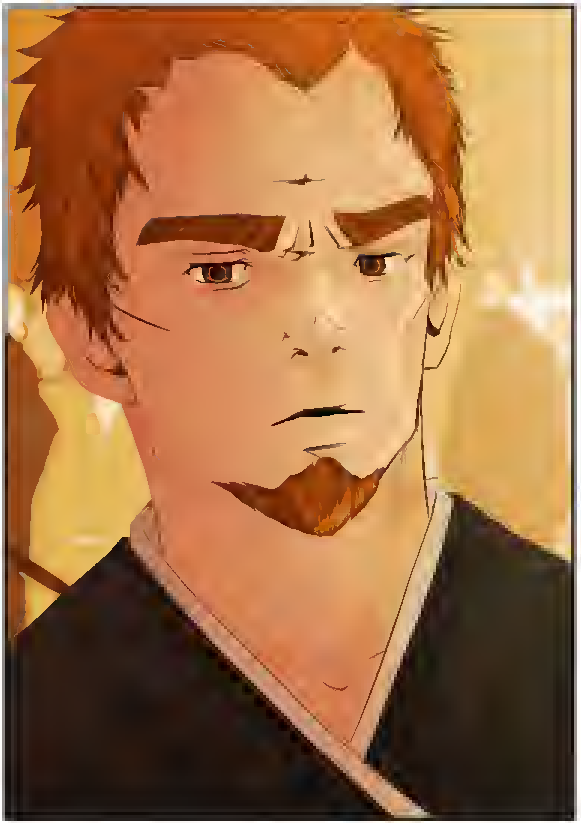

WITH YOUR SERVICE, WE ARE ALL ABLE TO LIVE PEACEFUL, HAPPY LIVES...

AND HAVE THE QUAINT SORT OF ATMOSPHERE YOU MIGHT'VE NOTICED RIGHT BEFORE YOU AND YOUR MEN APPEARED WITH YOUR WEAPONS.
YOU SPEAK RATHER BOLDLY, MERCHANT.

I MERELY SEEK THE SAME THING AS YOU DO, SIR.

PLEASE KNOW I SUPPORT WHATEVER WILL BRING ABOUT THE MOST GOOD FOR THE CITIZENS.

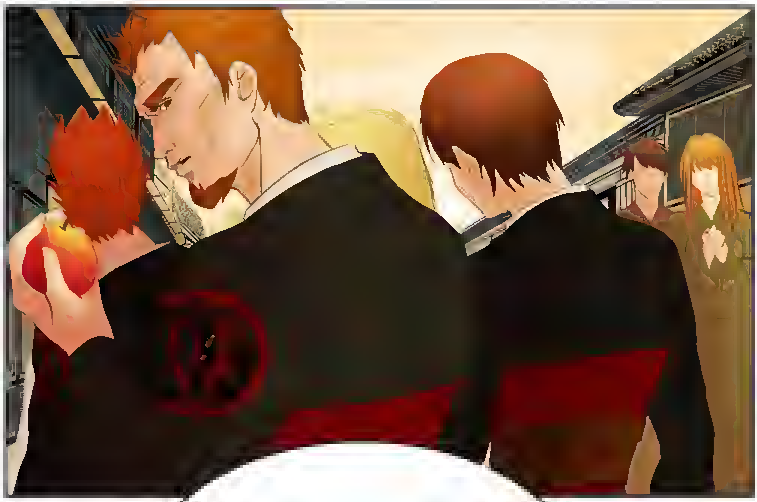




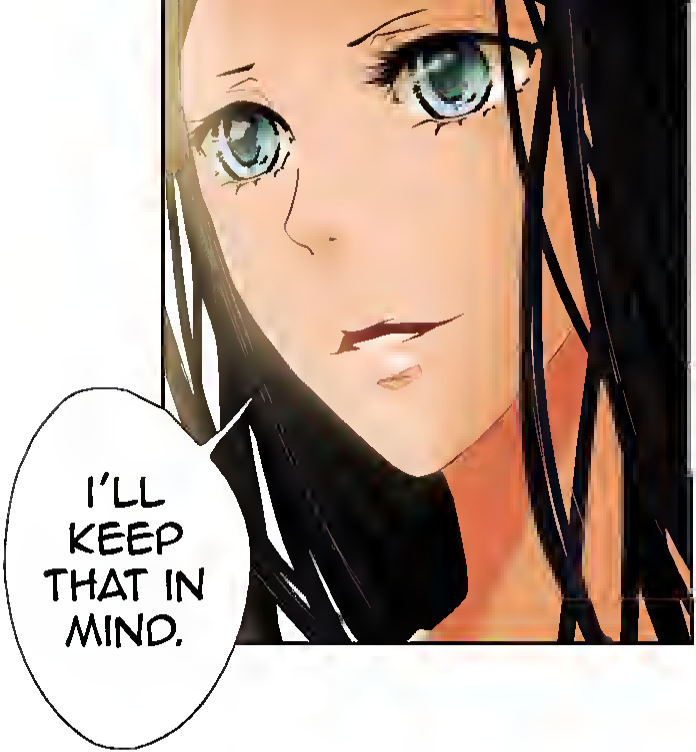
KEEP A WATCH OUT FOR TWO MALE ASSASSINS AND A YOUNG BOY.

IF YOU SEE ANYTHING, REPORT TO ONE OF US.

AND ANOTHER THING...



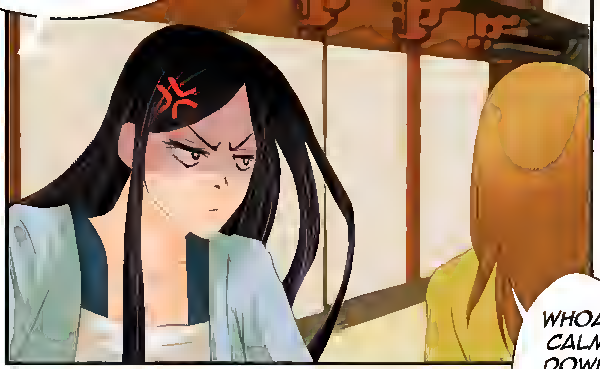
YOU SEEM TO BE A LITTLE TOO BOLD FOR YOUR OWN GOOD. I'D BE MORE CAREFUL.


I'LL KEEP THAT IN MIND.

CH

AK

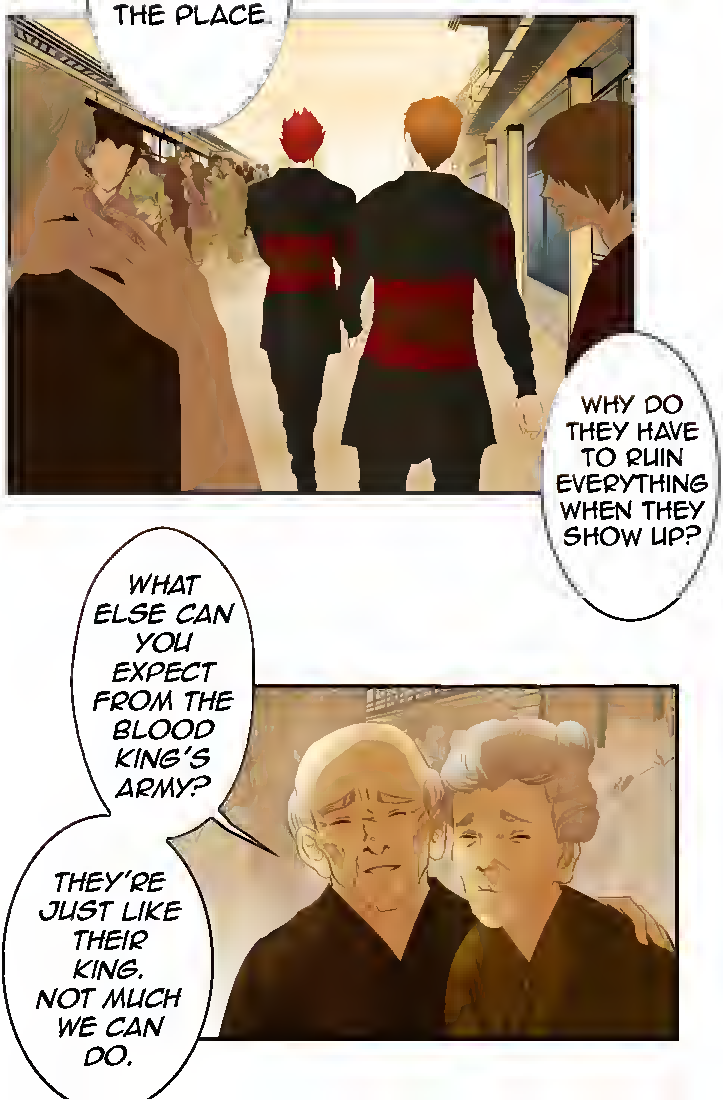
UGH. I CAN'T BELIEVE THE *NERVE* OF THOSE SOLDIERS.

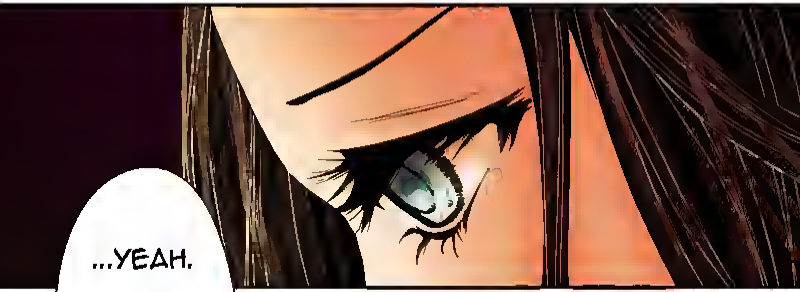


WHOA. CALM DOWN WITH THE KNIFE, LADY.

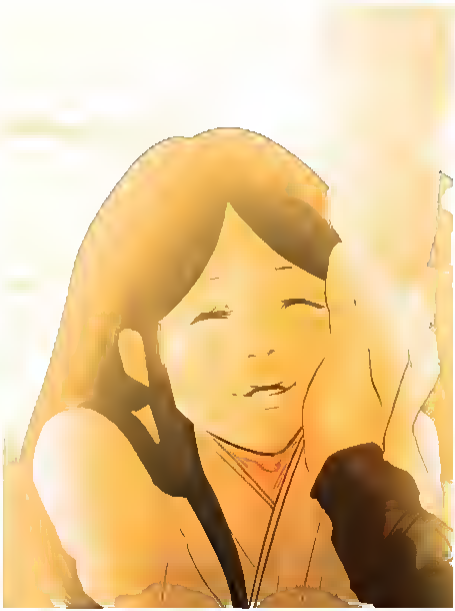
I CAN'T CALM DOWN. JUST LOOK AT WHAT THEY DID.

IT'S IRRITATING. ACTING LIKE THEY OWN

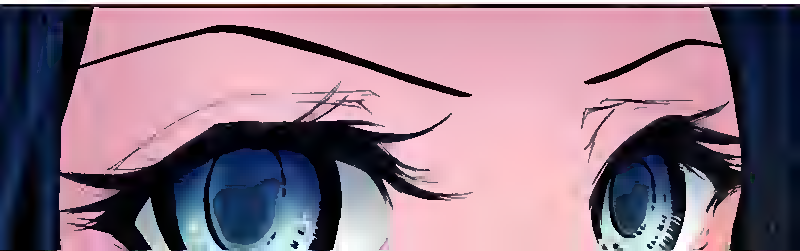

THE PLACE
WHY DO THEY HAVE TO RUIN EVERYTHING WHEN THEY SHOW UP?
WHAT ELSE CAN YOU EXPECT FROM THE BLOOD KING'S ARMY?
THEY'RE JUST LIKE THEIR KING. NOT MUCH WE CAN DO.


...YEAH.
I KNOW YOU'RE RIGHT... BUT...

...BUT NOT ALL OF THEM
WERE LIKE THAT.



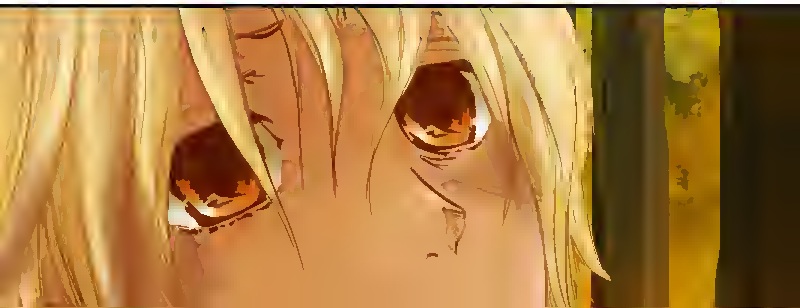
caw

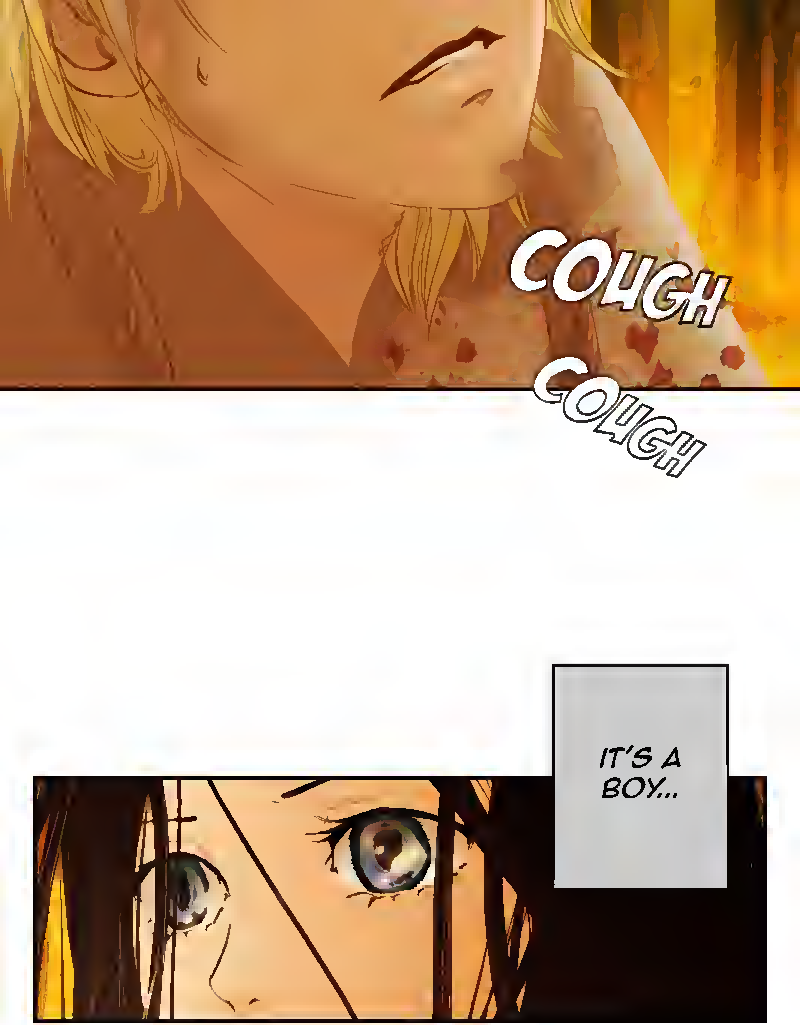


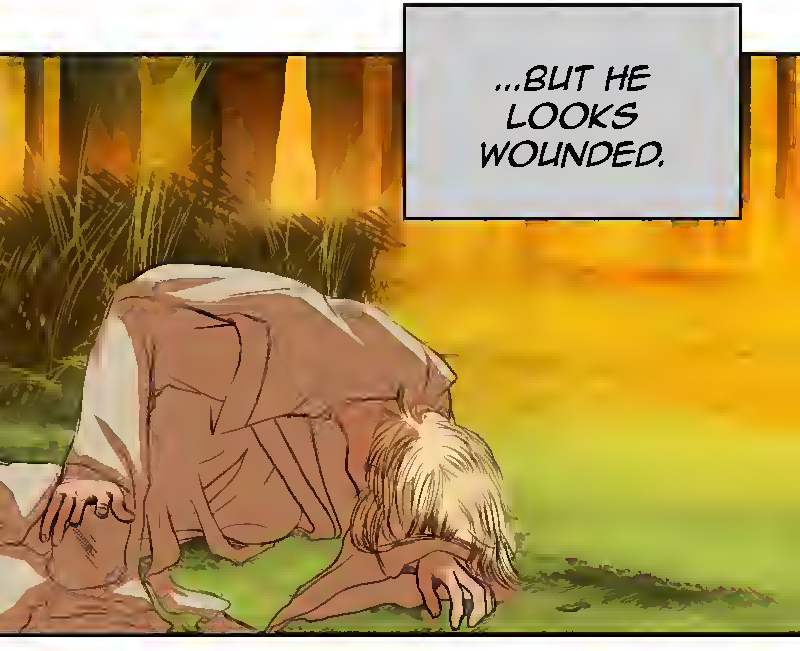
CAW

CAW

CAW

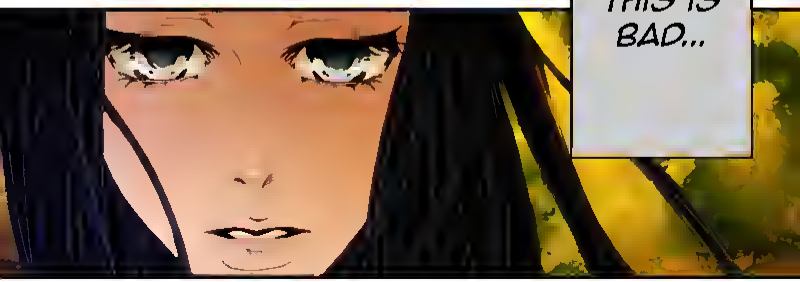



COUGH
COUGH
IT'S A BOY...

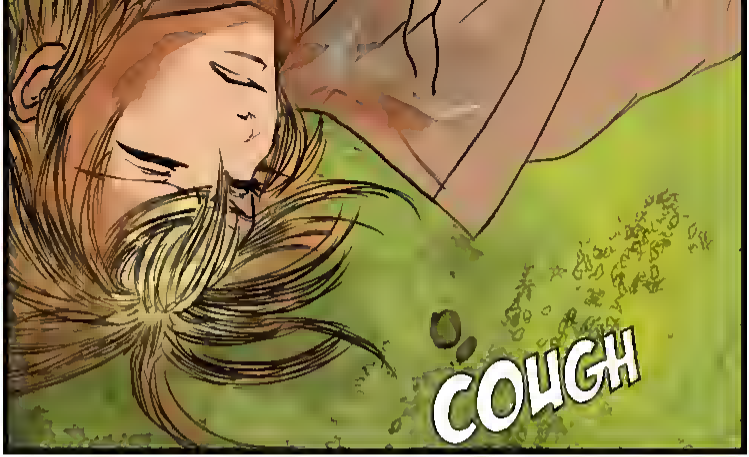

...BUT HE LOOKS WOUNDED.

I SHOULD SEE IF HE'S ALRIGHT.

GASP



...HE LOOKS AWFUL.

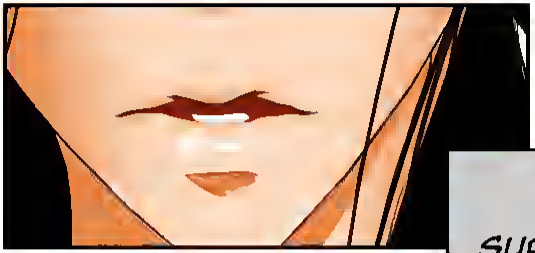


COUGH

COUGH

WHO ... ARE YOU ...?

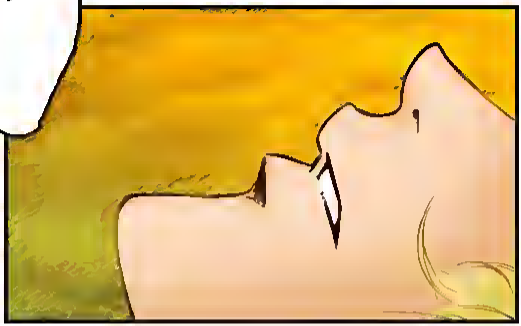
COUGH



THAT SURPRISED ME.

...I DIDN'T EXPECT HIM TO SPEAK.

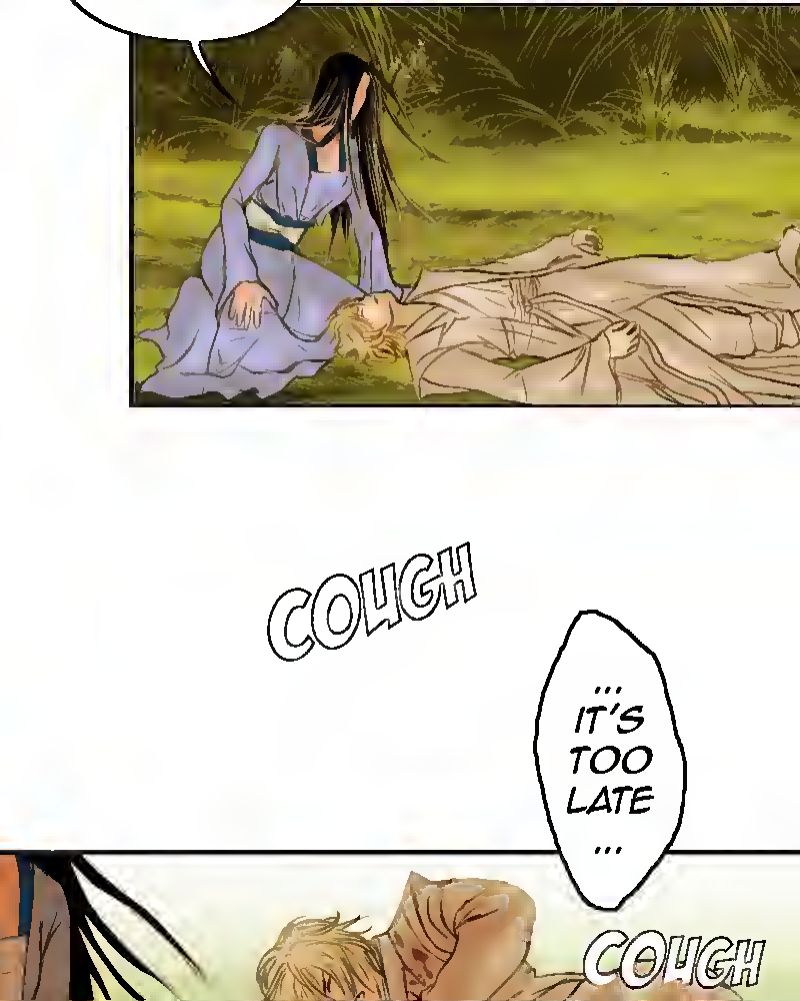
YOU
...



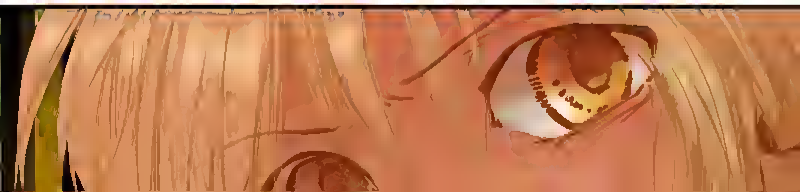
YOU
...
MUST
LEAVE
HERE
QUICKLY

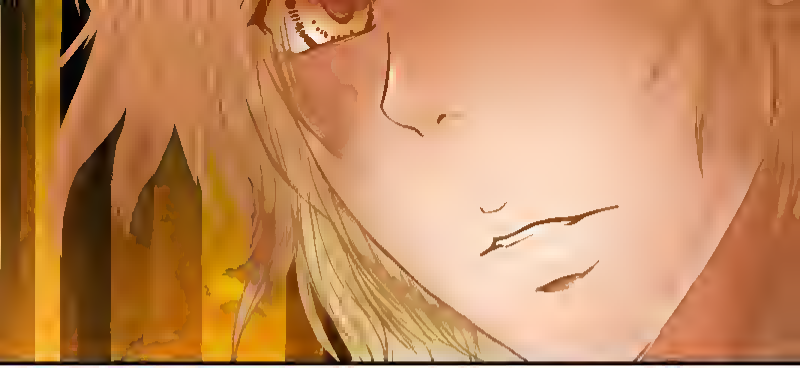
BUT, YOU'RE INJURED.

I CAN'T LEAVE YOU LIKE THIS.


COUGH
...
IT'S TOO LATE
...
COUGH

...
THEY'RE HERE
...





caw

caw

WHO'S HERE ...?

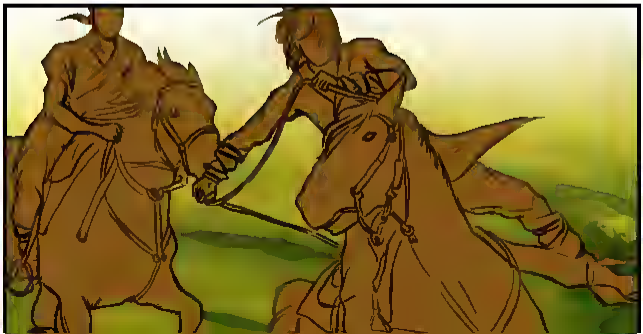
caw

caw

caw

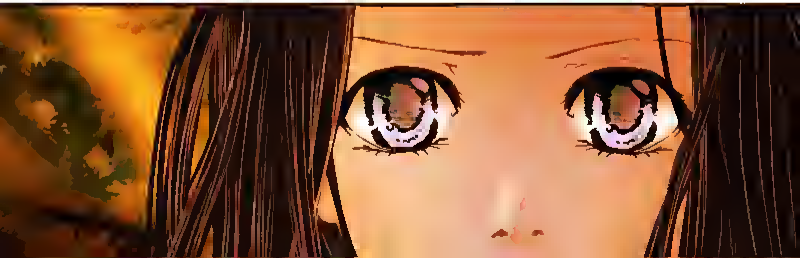
YOU

CAN'T RUN FROM US !!!

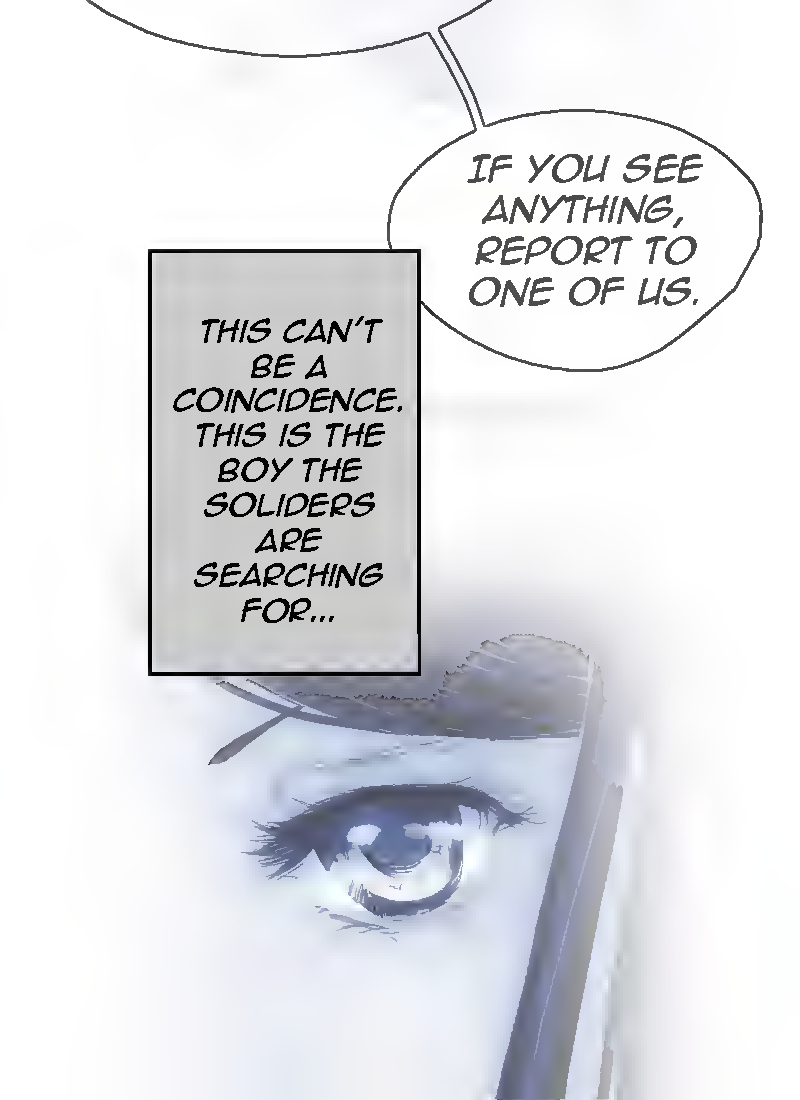


WELL, WELL...!

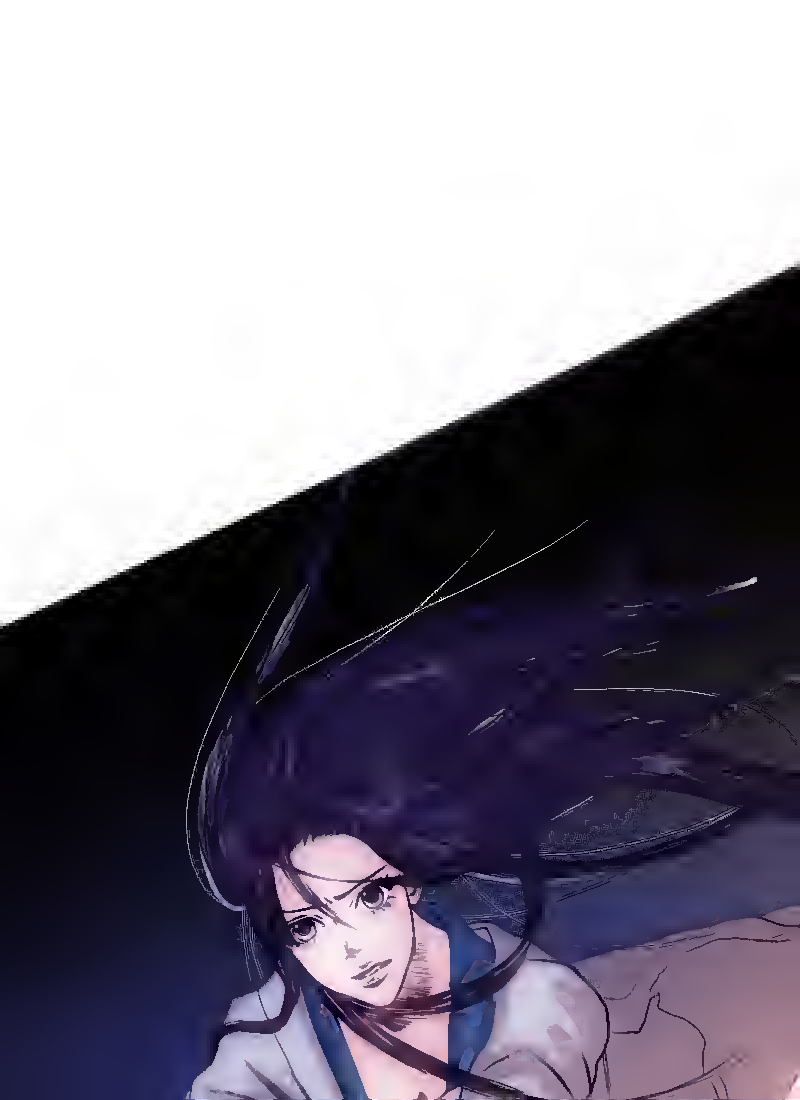
AND WHAT HAVE WE HERE?

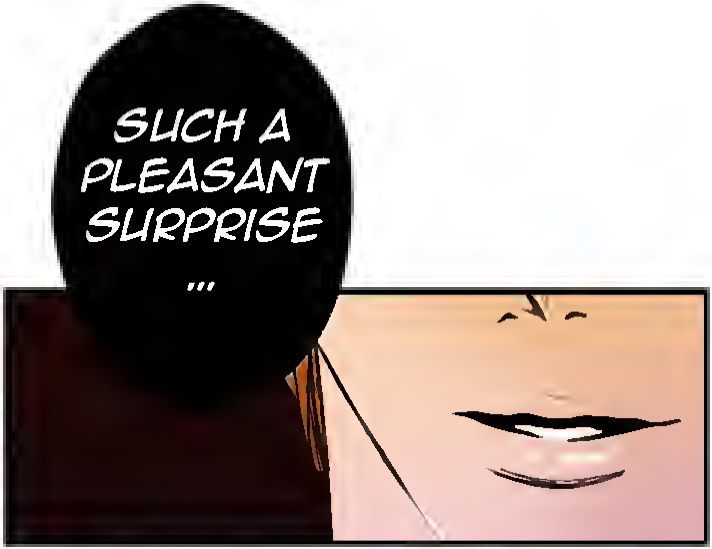


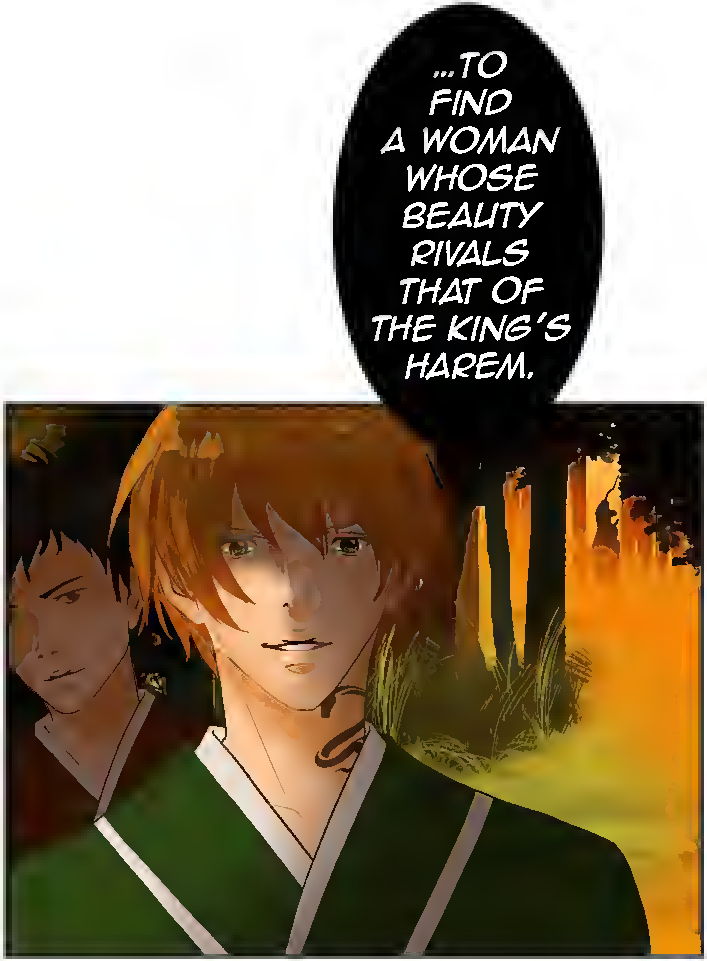
KEEP A WATCH OUT FOR TWO MALE ASSASSINS AND A YOUNG BOY.


IF YOU SEE ANYTHING, REPORT TO ONE OF US.
THIS CAN'T BE A COINCIDENCE. THIS IS THE BOY THE SOLIDERS ARE SEARCHING FOR...

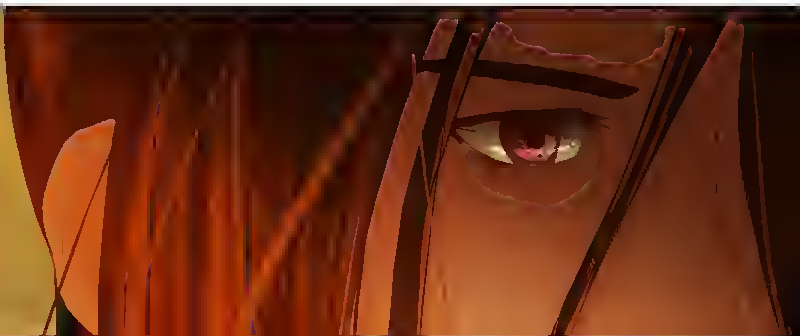
AND THESE MEN MUST BE THE TWO ASSASSINS.




SUCH A PLEASANT SURPRISE ...


...TO FIND A WOMAN WHOSE BEAUTY RIVALS THAT OF THE KING'S HAREM.

...WHAT SHALL WE DO WITH YOU, I WONDER?



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NAME OF THE SONG·

TRACK 2
<Tale of the Land>

Background music by

@KennyComics